Review of private sector ownership of coal mines

1837. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all coal mines are owned by public sector, private sector and joint sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government are considering review of private sector ownership of coal mines;

(d) if so. the details thereof; arid

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The coal mines are owned by either a public sector company, private sector company or joint venture company. Besides the Coal India Limited, a public sector undertaking and the Singareni Collieries Company, a joint venture company of the Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, there are 165 coal blocks allocated to other public/private sector companies. The table below indicates the number of mines/coal blocks owned by Public Sector and Private Sector Companies.

Number of mines/blocks

State	CIL	SCCL	PSUs other than CIL and SCCL	Private Companies
West Bengal	98		13	2
Jharkhand	159		26	19
Uttar Pradesh	4		-	-
Madhya Pradesh	73		11	8
Maharashtra	52		9	13
Chhattisgarh	54		14	16
Orissa	23		17	12
Assam	5		-	-
Andhra Pradesh		55	4	-
Arunachal Pradesh			1	-
TOTAL:	468	55	95*	70

* The blocks allocated jointly to public sector companies and private sector, companies have been indicated in public sector as public sector companies account for major share of reserves.

(c) to (e) Blocks are being allocated to private sector companies as per the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 for specified end uses. A Bill, namely, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. The amendment Bill seeks to allow an Indian company to undertake coal mining without the present restriction of captive end use.

Intimidation of subscribers by telecom operators

1838. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the lines of banks and credit card companies engaging recovery agents, the telecom operators have also employed recovery agents, who intimidate subscribers for paying up their dues;

(b) whether many such telecom operators have engaged junior lawyers to threaten subscribers with non-bailable warrants, if they don't pay up the dues;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has asked for details from telecom operators of methods used by them for recovery of dues; and

(d) whether the call data records of subscribers are being shared with the recovery agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Telecom Service Providers, in certain cases, unable to recover the outstanding dues outsource the work of recovery of dues to recovery agents.

(b) Telecom operators hire/engage lawyers to initiate legal proceedings for recovery of disputed outstanding dues.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per reports received from the service providers, the call data records are not shared by mobile companies with the recovery agents.

Losses incurred by MTNL

1839. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) Delhi is running into losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the time since when it has been running in losses;

(c) the amount of loss incurred during each year of the last loss making financial year; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation?